

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes new Figure 3.

Attachment: Drawing Sheet

REMARKS

The drawings have been objected to as failing to disclose the contact carrier having a hollow cylindrical wall section, as recited in claim 1. New Figure 3 is attached. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicant's respectfully disagree. With respect to the rounded off edges having a defined radius, this is illustrated as slots 2 having rounded-off edges 3. For claim 4, the figures disclose a diameter of the rounded hole 6 is in a region of a slot width of the slot 2.

Claims 1, 2 and 6-8 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Zuckler in view of Aoki. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Zuckler discloses a contact piece of a contact arrangement for interrupting a current in a distribution system having (a) a contact carrier which has a hollow-cylindrical section and a base wall, and (b) a contact disk which lies opposite the base wall in a longitudinal direction, slots being provided for producing a magnetic field. However, Zuckler does not disclose that rims of the slots have rounded-off edges having a defined radius, as required by the claimed invention. The Examiner concedes this point on page 4 of the Office Action.

Aoki discloses a contact piece for a contact arrangement which has first and second channels that define arc runners. According to Aoki, at col. 3, lns. 64 ff., the radius of curvature of the edge portion of each of the second channels is smaller than the radius of curvature of each of the first channels. Aoki does not disclose, however, a defined radius for the rounded edges of the rims of the slots, as required by the claimed invention. Rather, Aoki only discloses a relationship between different radii r_1 and r_2 of first and second channels, which together with different depths of first and second channels lead to an arc movement towards the edge portion of each of the second channels. Additionally, Aoki fails to disclose a rule on dimension for the radii of the different channels dependent on the voltage of the distribution system in order to achieve a higher dielectric

strength. Aoki only discloses the ration/relation between the different radii of the different channels, as require by claim 1 (as amended).

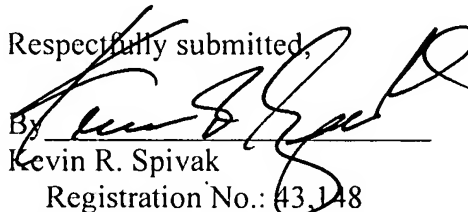
Since the recited structure is not disclosed by the applied prior art, claim 1 is patentable. Claims 3-8, depending directly or indirectly from claim 1, is similarly patentable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122081300.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

REPLACEMENT SHEET